

United Methodist Church  
PO Box 94  
804 St. John St.  
Boyceville, WI 54725

Return Service Requested



# The Gleaner

March 2021

Newsletter of Boyceville, Prairie Farm Faith and  
Wheeler Grace United Methodist Churches  
Pastor Shannon Mattison  
Parsonage: 715-749-6351 Cell: 715-220-0081  
Email: [shannonmattison@yahoo.com](mailto:shannonmattison@yahoo.com)  
Prairie Farm: Faith Worship Service 8:30 a.m.  
Boyceville Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Wheeler: Grace is temporarily closed for worship  
Welcome

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

It is about one year ago that it became evident that Corona virus was sweeping across the country and things would need to be done differently, this was to do as much as possible to keep our health system from becoming any more overwhelmed than it was as well as to help reduce the spread amongst others. On top of this our country has been more divided than any of us have experienced before. The time has been hard on us all as we have had to find different ways to do things. Although we may say we like change, when it comes down to it, most of us like doing things the way we are used to.

We are not the only ones who are comfortable with what we are used to. The disciples had an understanding of what the messiah would do. When Jesus challenged that this is what happened.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." <sup>32</sup> He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. <sup>33</sup> Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts." (Mark 8: 31-33 CEB)

Even as I pray that with the vaccines things can go back to as normal as possible, keeping the changes that have been good, letting go of traditions which need to go, I find comfort in these words from [Jeremiah 29:11-13 \(CEB\)](#)

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me.

We have entered the season of Lent, a time set aside to study, examine our relationship with God, and to strengthen it on our road to Easter. As we entered Lent, I find myself going back to Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 beginning "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens" (Eccles 3:1 NIV). And to this verse in the Hymn *Hymn of Promise*.

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.* (Hymn of Promise. Natalie Sleeth.© 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.)

We are in winter, nearing spring, waiting for what it will reveal, especially this year. I want to end this letter with one more thought about "a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens." As many of you know, I have had some health issues. Although I planned to work at least three to four more years, after much conversation with my family, it has been decided it is time for me to retire from full time work. I do this with many mixed feelings. It was announced at the Charge Conference last fall but has not been put in other formats. My last day as pastor of this charge will be June 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Shannon*

## Offerings

God has blessed us to be a blessing to others. One of the ways we do this is through our offerings of prayers, our time, talents, gifts, and witness in gratitude for God's unwavering love and countless blessings. In these ways we are able to help God's love and light shine through us to others.

Some of the ways we do this is through online worship, paper worship material, and phone in worship. Soon we will be back to in-person worship following safety protocols. We are also able to continue in other ministries such as supporting local food shelves and backpack food programs for children, coat closet, and medical ministry in Honduras. Through our apportionments we are able to help support various ministries around Wisconsin and the world. But we cannot do any of these things without your support. Check out the following information about ways to contribute.

Please continue to support your church during this time of uncertainty. Donations can be sent to:

Boyceville UMC  
P.O. Box 94  
Boyceville, WI 54725

Faith UMC  
c/o Margie Wiseman  
405 Bluff Ave. N  
Prairie Farm, WI 54762

Grace UMC  
P.O. Box 183  
Wheeler, WI 54772

## Online Giving at Boyceville

Online giving is available at Boyceville through PayPal. You do not have to have a PayPal account to use this option. There are options to make one-time donations or you can schedule a recurring donation. A space for notes is available for comments if you wish to designate part of your donation to a special project, like our Honduras Medical Mission or Apportionments. The PayPal link is on the church website: [boycevilleumc.org](http://boycevilleumc.org)

## **Worship**

The Prairie Farm Faith United Methodist Church will open for in-person worship at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The United Methodist Church of Boyceville will open for in-person worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and the Wheeler Grace United Methodist Church will remain closed at this time. Weekly worship videos are available on the [boycevilleumc.org](http://boycevilleumc.org) website and the United Methodist Church of Boyceville Facebook page.

**We will not be meeting in-person or on-line for Wednesdays in Lent.**

## **Sermon by Phone**

The Boyceville church is offering a Sermon by Phone service. Each week you can call into our Sermon by Phone telephone number and listen to the scripture reading and sermon. The phone number is 715-309-5114. This is a Menomonie number, and it is a local phone number for Boyceville and Wheeler. There is no charge to listen to the sermon. The sermon will be available to call Sunday after 8 am. Each service will be available till the following Saturday afternoon. If you have any questions call Marguerite at 715-643-2164.

Sermon by Phone - call 715-309-5114. The message will change each week, but the phone number stays the same.

## **Missions at Boyceville**

For a hands-on mission project, we will be putting together Personal Dignity Kits at the Boyceville UMC. All items need to be new and no deodorants in aerosol cans. Note that a \$2 cash donation is requested for toothpaste and razor to be added at Midwest Mission. The money should be placed in the bag. Items need to be at the church by Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>. Cash donations are welcome too. A member of the mission team will be happy to shop for you.

### **Personal Dignity Kit**

- 1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels
  - 1 Bath Washcloth - No kitchen towels
  - 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multipacks
  - 1 Bar Soap - 3-4 oz
  - 1 Shampoo - 15-18 oz
  - 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz, stick roll on or pump
- Place items in a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag  
\$2 for toothpaste and razor

We are continuing our support of Sisters Confianza and Alegria and their medical work in Honduras. We are the first, and currently, the only church that has made a pledge to support their work for a full year with a minimum contribution. We are now well into our third year supporting the Sisters and most months we exceed our goal of sending \$100 a month to support them. Our year for the Sisters runs October-September. At the end of October in 2020 we had sent \$1972 to the Sisters! November 2020 through January 2021 we sent \$365. Thank you for your support.



## Journey

*And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. (Mark 1:12-13)*

My beloved Wisconsin siblings in Christ, we enter again into the period of Lent through the archway of Ash Wednesday, a day of repentance, contrition, and *kenosis* (self-emptying and abasement). We follow the footsteps of Jesus, sent by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for forty days. During this Lenten period leading to Holy Week and Easter, we tend to focus on temptations by Satan and the threat and danger of the wild beasts, but this year I invite us to focus on the angels.

Most people in the United States tend to focus on destinations – places we want to go, things we want to accomplish, people we want to meet, things we want to own. Ends justify means, and we don't give much thought to our processes of movement, preparation, saving, or planning. Process is simply not as important to many of us as outcomes and achievements. The "what" is a greater motivator than the "how".

Thirty-five years ago, Nell Morton wrote a wonderful book called, *The Journey is Home*, sharing stories and reflections on the rise of women's leadership in the Christian faith. The title of this book contains a profound truth of our walk with Jesus – the journey is home, it is exactly where God wants us to be. Wilderness is scary to us because it is unfamiliar, uncomfortable, and unknown. But the best way to get to know wilderness – to make friends with it – is to enter fully in. A few days is not enough. A couple of weeks is not enough. The gift of forty days (with all of its rich and great theological meaning) is just long enough – either we will make friends with wilderness or wilderness just might defeat us. It is both a challenge and an opportunity.

Nature provides many challenges that are neither good nor bad, but they just are – God's creation acting with integrity. Human beings enter wilderness with risk, but also with an incredible capacity to learn, to adapt, to grow, and to improve. Survival skills allow us not only to survive, but to thrive, and it takes time to develop them. Jesus' forty days in the wilderness is a metaphor for our entire lives of faith – we walk through unknown and unfamiliar territory, learning as we go, hopefully improving and thriving (with God's help). We face limitless temptations and multiple forms of "wild beasts," but in our faith, we never face these alone. We go with God, filled by the Holy Spirit, attended by angelic forces, walking with Jesus, and in the loving grace of a community of Christian friends. This is the journey.

Too often, we seek to leap to Easter, ignoring the wilderness, the work, the sacrifice, the danger, and the challenges we encounter before we get there. But the journey is more important than the destination. God has already taken care of the ending. Our task is to make the journey of life wisely and well. We strive to become more Christ-like, mastering the survival skills to travel our road with integrity and grace. We learn to be more loving, more caring, more giving, more merciful. We become kinder, gentler, patient, and just. We forgive more, share more, and serve more. We are peace-makers, peace-builders, peace-keepers, and peace-lovers. We reject the -isms and phobias that do harm, commit violence, and seek to destroy – sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, xenophobia. We send Satan fleeing by laughing in the devil's face, choosing instead to pursue God with all our heart, mind, soul, and spirit; choosing to love every child of God on earth as we love ourselves.

The journey is our home. This home created for us by a loving and mighty God. This home decorated with all the equipment we need to live faithfully in our world. This home filled to

overflowing with the energy and power of the Holy Spirit. My friends, during this Lententide, enter not a wilderness of danger and threat, but a place where you – where we all – belong. I am excited to take this journey with you. Thanks be to God.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

## Ingathering 2021

All churches are encouraged to begin gathering the supplies for Personal Dignity Kits and Homecare Kits. The list of supplies needed for those kits are found below. Items can be put together in kit form as indicated, or they can be donated separately. Monetary donations can also be made. Please have donations to your church by June 1<sup>st</sup> so they can be taken to the drop-off site. Thanks.

### **Personal Dignity Kit**

1 Bath Hand towel – no kitchen towels  
1 Bath Washcloth – no kitchen towels  
1 Adult Toothbrush – No multipacks  
1 Bar Soap – 3-4 Oz.  
1 Shampoo - 15-18 oz.  
1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz. stick, roll on or pump  
Place items in a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag – video at [www.midwestmission.org](http://www.midwestmission.org)  
\$2 for tooth paste and razor

### **Homecare Kit**

2 Liquid Household Cleaners 16 -40 oz (no spray bottles)  
2 Dish Soaps  
2 Liquid Laundry Detergents 32-64 oz.  
1 scrub brush with or without handle  
Place items into a 5-gallon resealable bucket with a resealable cover



*To all of you that gave me thoughts, prayers, food, and care during my surgery to replace my eye and when I fell, it really meant so much. I appreciated it all.*

*In Christ's love,  
Shelby Bauer*

Wheeler: Grace United Methodist Church

Take-out Creamed Chicken & Biscuit Dinner  
3-7 p.m.

Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

Pick up food at  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church,  
Wheeler, WI

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

## Gleaner Deadline

Gleaner news is due Tuesday, March 23rd.  
Please contact Tammy Nelson at  
715-505-2657 or [rtsmnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:rtsmnelson@hotmail.com)  
with your news. Thanks. ☺

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Samantha Christian	Pat Schoonover	Virgil Schoonover
Chloe Howey	Jackie Vos	Irene Schmidt
Jeanna Hollister	Parker Knutson	Gary Kahl
Family & Friends of Jean McIntyre		
Family & Friends of Robert Stalker		
Family & Friends of Doris Herdahl (Margie Wiseman's sister)		
Family & Friends of Shirley Christopherson (Janice Salsbury's sister)		
Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters		Food Harvest Ministry
Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes		Honduras Mission

A reminder: Please remember our shut-ins with calls and cards.

**Please keep our prayer list current by letting Pastor Shannon or Tammy know when names should be added or removed.**

## *Parish Birthdays and Anniversaries in March*

3 - Jason Jones	16 - Makayla Nelson
5- Jordan Nelson	19 - Rhonda Johnson
6 – Jerry & Julie Hiben (anniv)	20 - Kylie Kahl
6 – Ray Wreford	20 - Robert Wyss
9 – Earl Blodgett	21 – Randy & Mindy Nelson (anniv)
11 – Cory Christian	22 – Jacob Nelson
11 – Lyle Minor	23 – Dorothy Luben
12 – Kim Silvius	24 – Bill Wiseman
13 – Olivia Jones	26 – Lionel Kegen
14 – Sierra Harren	26 - Roxanne White
14 – Gaylord Johnson	
14 -Connye Kegen	

## Weekend Meal Bags

Boyceville is scheduled to deliver the weekend meal bags from WestCap to the school on Wednesday, March 17th. No packing of bags, just delivering. Bags need to be picked up from WestCap and delivered to the middle school and elementary school between 1-2 pm. Contact Marguerite if you would like to help.

## Food Harvest Ministry News

The next Food Harvest Ministry distribution will be from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, March 20th at 1002 Main St., Boyceville, WI. Items will be boxed and ready for pick up. Volunteers are needed to unload the truck and pack boxes on Thursday, March 18th.

## *Faith United Methodist Church News for March*

### Worship Service at 8:30 am

**In person worship will resume on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Remember to wear masks and we will be socially distanced.**

	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Greeter/Usher</b>
March 7	Bill Wiseman	Bill Wiseman
March 14	Roxanne White	Roxanne White
March 21	Leslie Frisle	Frisles
March 28	Open	Open

Administrative Council will meet Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## *Faith United Methodist Women*

Faith United Methodist Women will meet on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Following the business meeting, Pat Frisle will have the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. Envelopes will be provided with the kit for the offering.



Our deepest sympathy to the families of Shirley Christopherson and Doris Herdahl.



## Giving Is It Time For Change? March 2021

*“Even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing — grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.” ~Joel 2:12-14*

With February comes the cold dark days of Lent. Are you ready? Are you ready to seriously look inside yourself? Are you ready to be honest about what is godly and what is not? Are you ready to change?

Change is a great theme word for Lent (and all of 2020). Many things changed health, wealth, and politics. It changed without us trying and definitely without us wanting it to change. But in Lent, things change because we make them change. It is our time to change our habits, minds, action, and internal/external words to become more like Christ.

Do you need to change your change? Think about how much you give to the church. Should/can you give more? Maybe your answer is “I don’t know.” Think about this: How much do you spend each month going out to eat. How much money do you spend on coffee? How much money do you spend on fun item, hobbies, and events? Now compare those numbers to the amount you give to God each month.

Do you need to make a change?

Rev. Krystal Goodger, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Visit the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at [www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org) or Facebook/wumf.org  
or call 1-888-903-9863

